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JPRS L/10140

25 November 1981

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 54/81)



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CONTENTS

ASIA

BRUNEI

- Magistrate Describes Brunei's Drug Penalties
(BORNEO BULLETIN, 26 Sep 81)..... 1

BURMA

- Briefs
Opium Seizure in Katha..... 2

INDIA

- Calcutta Police Fail To Pursue 'Hashish Trail'
(THE HINDU, 6 Oct 81)..... 3

INDONESIA

- Nation Defined as Major Transit Point
(THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY, 24 Oct 81)..... 4

MALAYSIA

- Five Pounds of Heroin Seized at Ferry Terminal
(NEW STRAITS TIMES, 2 Oct 81)..... 5

PAKISTAN

- Opium Seizure in Baluchistan Reported
(THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY, 24 Oct 81)..... 6

- a -

[III - WW - 138 FOUO]

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Briefs		
Hashish Seized in Islamabad		7
Excise Team Attacked		7
PHILIPPINES		
Drug Traffic Bared in Manila		
(Jose De Vera; BULLETIN TODAY, 30 Oct 81).....		8
Briefs		
Gun, Drug Smuggler Arrested		10
EAST EUROPE		
CZECHOSLOVAKIA		
Briefs		
Narcotics Laboratory Discovered		11
LATIN AMERICA		
ARGENTINA		
Briefs		
Drug Consumers Arrested		12
BOLIVIA		
Paper on Antidrug Efforts		
(EL DIARIO, 27 Oct 81).....		13
Briefs		
Minister Heads Antidrug Council		14
Cocaine Burned		14
CHILE		
Cocaine Trafficking Since 1970 Viewed		
(Ivan Fredes, Andrea Orzegow; ERCILLA, 14 Oct 81).....		15
COSTA RICA		
Briefs		
Plane, Traffickers in Custody		18

- b -

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ECUADOR

Briefs	
Cocaine Traffickers Seized	19

HONDURAS

Tons of Marihuana Seized Near Swan Island (Nelson Fernandez; LA PRENSA, 12 Sep 81).....	20
Briefs	
Marihuana Plantation Discovered	22

MEXICO

Briefs	
International Drug Traffickers Arrested	23

PANAMA

Briefs	
Trafficker's Arrest	24

PARAGUAY

Briefs	
Morphine Peddlers Arrested	25

PERU

Briefs	
Drug Ring Broken	26

VENEZUELA

Briefs	
Drug Arrest	27

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

AFGHANISTAN

Finnish Expert Appointed to UN Drug Effort in Country (HELSINGIN SANOMAT, 24 Oct 81).....	28
--	----

EGYPT

Opium Smuggling Attempt Foiled (AL-AHRAM, 19 Oct 81).....	30
--	----

- c -

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IRAN

Briefs	
Traffickers Executed	31
Drug Case Statistics	31

ISRAEL

Briefs	
Hashish Found	32

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

NIGER

Drug Abuse Statistics, Prevention Measures Noted (Binta Mahamane; SAHEL HEBDO, 19 Oct 81).....	33
---	----

SOUTH AFRICA

Mandrax Dealers Use New Route Into Country (Emielia Jaroschek; RAND DAILY MAIL, 29 Oct 81).....	35
Mandrax Courier Methods, Techniques Are Described (Emielia Jaroschek; RAND DAILY MAIL, 29 Oct 81).....	36

WEST EUROPE

NETHERLANDS

Briefs	
Heroin Confiscated	38

NORWAY

Government Steps Up Drug Enforcement Effort in North Sea (Thorleif Andreassen; AFTENPOSTEN, 30 Oct 81).....	39
Police Make Arrests for Drug Abuse in North Sea Oil Field (ARBEIDERBLADET, 19 Oct 81).....	41
Briefs	
Hungarians Smuggled in Hashish	42

BRUNEI

MAGISTRATE DESCRIBES BRUNEI'S DRUG PENALTIES

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 26 Sep 81 p 4

[Excerpts]

KUALA BELAIT:

A 26-year-old tally clerk from Kuching has been sentenced to 3½ years in a Brunei prison for possession of cannabis — and even with that sentence he should count himself lucky, the magistrate told him.

Magistrate Mr Kong Seng Kwong presided over the 15-day trial of Lu Tong Kui, who pleaded not guilty to importing cannabis.

In his verdict, the magistrate concluded the prosecution had proved Lu was in possession of cannabis but had failed to prove he was importing it.

He therefore found Lu guilty of the reduced charge of possession of 169.69 grams of cannabis.

Before passing sentence, Mr Kong discussed in detail Brunei's anti-drug laws and other factors that magistrates must consider when fixing penalties.

The Misuse of Drugs Enactment of 1978, he said, has the social objective of preventing the growth of drug abuse and in particular, the dangerous drug trade.

The enactment recognises and treats drug abuse as a crime.

Brunei's law sets the maximum sentence for possession of dangerous drugs at 10 years in jail plus a \$20,000 fine, but such a stiff sentence is considered suitable only for the worst offenders.

The sentence for first offenders is left to the discretion of the magistrate, although the minimum for second offenders is fixed at two years or \$3,000.

He then discussed the importance of the amount of drugs seized in determining sentences.

Brunei's law treats the possession or use of any dangerous drug as equally reprehensible — her-

ion is considered equivalent to cannabis.

But in trafficking cases the drugs are treated differently, with two grams of heroin, three of morphine, 15 of cannabis and 100 of opium considered equivalent.

The greater the amount of drugs in a case the heavier the penalty should be, Mr Kong said.

Another factor to take into consideration is the prevalence of drug abuse and the magistrate said the number of drug cases tried in Belait Dis-

trict courts has increased sharply this year.

In 1979 there were two, last year none and so far this year there have already been nine, with most involving Malaysians.

The magistrate said sentencing must take all these factors into consideration and aim as well to balance the interests of the public and the state with those of the accused.

In the case of Lu, he said, he would give weight to the mitigating factors that he was a first offender and had been in custody since January 21.

The magistrate told Lu he was very lucky on three counts.

Firstly, he was not charged with trafficking, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years plus \$40,000 plus 10 strokes of the rotan.

Secondly, he was charged with importing only a quarter of the cannabis found in his possession — if he had been charged with importing the entire amount he would face a heavier sentence.

Thirdly, the prosecution failed to prove he had been importing the drug, for which the maximum sentence is 30 years plus \$50,000.

Mr Kong said possession of 169.69 grams of cannabis was a very serious offence, but not so bad as to warrant the maximum penalty he could lay down.

He therefore sentenced Lu to 3½ years in jail, dating from May 19 when the High Court allowed Lu's appeal against the stiff sentence he had earlier received from a different magistrate.

When his case first came to trial on March 2, Lu pleaded guilty to the charge of importing cannabis and magistrate Tuan Syed Ahmad Idid gave him the maximum sentence in his power, five years plus \$20,000.

Lu, however, appealed against the sentence, which was described as one of the stiffest anti-drug penalties in recent years.

Mr Justice O'Connor allowed the appeal on technical grounds and ordered the case be retried before a different magistrate.

CSO: 5300/8307

BURMA

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZURE IN KATHA--A police squad headed by subinspectors U Maung Ko and U Khin Maung of Katha Township police station No 1 on 19 October raided the residence of Daw Kham Mar Gwe, 76, in Kyangaw Tada-u Kyunpintha village tract, Katha, and found 5 viss [18 pounds] of raw opium, worth 20,000 kyat, hidden under the stove. Daw Kham Mar Gwe has been charged under Section 6.b of the Narcotics Drug Law. [BK130548 Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 30 Oct 81 p 4]

CSO: 5300/4552

INDIA

CALCUTTA POLICE FAIL TO PURSUE 'HASHISH TRAIL'

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Oct 81 p 9

[Text]

CALCUTTA, Oct 5

Once noted for its efficiency all over the country, Calcutta's police department seems to be losing its grip. Not only has general lawlessness and the number of crimes gone up in the city. But recently it was guilty of an uncharacteristic lack of awareness by not following up its investigations on the international hashish trail that has been running through the city for some time.

On the night of August 31, the police made one of the biggest seizures of ganja — 1700 kg — in South Calcutta. Four persons were arrested after a hot chase and a film style fight between cops and robbers with flick-knives and revolvers.

A truck was carrying the stuff packed in 44 gunny bags hidden under wooden planks from Assam to Kanpur. Later several more arrests were made, among them people who had come to take local delivery of the item, with cash. The cost of the haul officially was announced as Rs. 8,80,000. It cost much more of course on the black market.

Nor was this the first catch in Calcutta. Eighteen months ago, several persons, including a British national, were arrested after the seizure of ganja although not quite on the scale of August 31.

It seems remarkable in hindsight that the police apparently for reasons best known to themselves, did not pursue the matter with the importance it deserved. This could be because drug offences had not yet hurt society in

a major way, as in other advanced countries.

On the night of the August 31 raid, conducted mainly by a few dedicated officers, one of the arrested men was a person who had been arrested in connection with the previous seizure as well. This seemed to indicate that a network of sorts had been established and that it had graduated from the takeoff to the operative stage.

But somehow, there has been little further investigation despite the size of the haul and the obvious menace of an international drug racket operating in a city Calcutta's size.

Transit countries: It appears extremely unlikely that the city police department has been doing its homework. According to Interpol, both India and Pakistan have now been among the transit countries for drugs for quite some time now. The stuff does not end up here, but it passes through. The police have no figures again to indicate just how much might be sold within Greater Calcutta. The prevalence of drugs like mandrax however, has become established.

Shortly after the seizures, the Union Home Department authorities and their connected agencies began their investigations. What had perplexed them, according to reports available, was how could the stuff elude the supposedly unceasing vigilance of so many border post personnel and achieve such penetration. However, the find was no fluke, the police claim and say that there was a definite tip-off.

Till 1974, Nepal used to be the major transit country for many kinds of drugs

like opium, heroin and hashish. It received far more tourists a few years ago than now, one of the attractions being the easy availability of such drugs in the Himalayan foot land, which was on a direct route west from the famed golden triangle of Burma, Thailand and Kampuchea, the producing centres of the drugs.

Westward flow: Following international pressure, the traffic through Nepal could be closed but the westward flow did not stop. Drugs seeped through Bihar or West Bengal with Varanasi becoming a major peddling centre.

From there, it used to get through the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran route initially. But later with Islamic legislation in these countries cracking down hard on drug offences the traffic switched to Somalia, Italy or Corsica on its way to the large lucrative markets of the U.S. and Canada.

The stakes being high — a 3 kg peck of hashish would fetch \$1 million in the U.S. — profits are distributed along the way. For instance the four men in the truck on August 31 admitted that they had been offered Rs. 10,000 for the safe passage of their precious cargo over a small distance.

The city police department's calculated inactivity is there for all to see. And the local Central Excise Department has taken very little interest in the seizure. The question asked is this: If a man had been arrested 18 months ago on a charge of drug peddling, how could he dare take such a risk again so soon unless he was assured of adequate protection from some very powerful quarters?

CSO: 5300/7002

INDONESIA

NATION DEFINED AS MAJOR TRANSIT POINT

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 24 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

DJAKARTA, 23 Oct.—Indonesia has been established in international seminars as a major transit country in the narcotic traffic to the United States and Australia, Deputy Attorney-General Datuk Mulia said here.

In the country itself, the drug problem has increased dramatically as evident from the number of recorded narcotic offences which has jumped from 259 in 1978 to 669 in 1980, he told a meeting of law students here Wednesday.

Datuk Mulia, who is in charge of intelligence at the Attorney-General's Office, said the Government has not yet succeeded in smashing narcotic mafias in the country, but is now stepping up the abilities of the agencies concerned—customs, the

police and prosecutors—to cope with the menace.

He said it was quite possible that Haj pilgrims were being used to smuggle dope in or outside the country as alleged in some quarters, in view of the general laxity in the checking of their luggage.

He also noted that Indonesia was the most lenient among ASEAN countries in sentencing drug offenders, considering that in the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia the death sentence is the norm for serious narcotic crimes.

In the face of the growing narcotic danger, the Attorney-General has proposed that the Government review the 1976 law on narcotics with the aim of dealing more sternly with offenders, he said.

CSO: 5300/4909

MALAYSIA

FIVE POUNDS OF HEROIN SEIZED AT FERRY TERMINAL

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Oct 81 p 1

[Text]

PENANG, Thurs. — Customs officers from the preventive branch last night seized about five pounds of heroin which can be converted into at least half-a-million shots.

They also detained five men — aged between 20 and 30 — from Penang, Kedah and Perak. A car was also seized.

Speaking at a Press conference here today, Senior Assistant Director of Customs Ahmad Abdullah said the heroin was found in a briefcase in the boot of a car at a roadblock outside the ferry terminal at Butterworth.

A team from the preventive branch, led by Senior Customs Officer Fakaruddin Mohamed Basir, had set up the roadblock about 7 pm for routine checks.

Encik Ahmad said about 10 pm, a car registered in Perak, drove out from the ferry terminal towards the roadblock.

The officers signalled the driver to stop and ordered the occupants out. A thorough check of the car was made.

They found several bags and a briefcase in the boot of the car, Encik Ahmad said.

The five men were then ordered to identify their luggage and to open them.

Encik Ahmad said one of the men identified the

briefcase as his and he was told to open it.

After opening the briefcase, he ran away with it. The officers gave chase and after about 100 yards, the man was caught.

"The officers checked the briefcase and found four packets containing heroin," he added.

Encik Ahmad said follow-up investigations were underway.

Present at the conference were the head of the preventive branch, Haji Sulaiman Ali and the Senior Assistant Director of Customs (Preventive) Encik Radzi bin Murad.

CSO: 5300/8308

PAKISTAN

OPIUM SEIZURE IN BALUCHISTAN REPORTED

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 24 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, 22 Oct — Pakistani customs men seized two-and-a-half tons of contraband opium from a truck in Baluchistan Province, bordering Afghanistan, and broke an international drug ring in Karachi, it was reported here today.

The opium, valued at more than six million dollars in the international market, was hidden in concealed compartments in the truck, the official news agency APP said.

Two persons, including the truck driver, were arrested.

In Karachi the Narcotics Department and customs men arrested

members of an international gang of peddlers, arresting including two Thais, Swissair workers and two customs men.

The drugs ring was uncovered after 190 kilos (about 400 lbs) of hashish was intercepted as it was being smuggled out to Rome on a Thai airlines flight for Amsterdam today, official sources said.

They said the two arrested customs men had brought the hashish consignment to the Karachi runway in six aluminium crates. The gang's payoff of 100,000 rupees (about 10,000 dollars) was also seized.—NAB/AFP

CSO: 5300/4909

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZED IN ISLAMABAD--Islamabad, Nov 5: Pakistan Narcotics Control Board today seized over 20 kilograms of hashish, worth millions of rupees from a local packages firm at Islamabad. According to details, Mr Iftikhar Ahmed Khan, Director Enforcement, Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, was tipped that two Italian nationals had booked a consignment through a local packages firm to Italy, and a special raiding party consisting of Mr Ihsan Ahmed, Malik Riaz Ahmed and Raja Tariq Nawaz, was organised. A raid was conducted at the packages firm, which resulted in the recovery of the hashish concealed in five wooden boxes. The accused have been identified as Mario Preziofio and Carlo Alberto. Meanwhile the authorities of the PNCB contacted the Interpol in Rome and conveyed the passport numbers, addresses and other details of the accused. A case against both the accused has been registered and further investigation is in progress. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 6 Nov 81 p 1]

EXCISE TEAM ATTACKED--Some drug pedlars attacked an excise team and snatched away their man arrested during a raid in Nazimabad on Friday night. The Excise party had raided the den, arrested one person and seized two kilos of charas. When the alleged ring leader of the pedlars Saifullah, knew about the incident he along with his accomplices confronted the party and got the arrested man released. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 8 Nov 81 p 8]

CSO: 5300/4551

PHILIPPINES

DRUG TRAFFIC BARED IN MANILA

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 30 Oct 81 pp 1, 17

[Article by Jose De Vera]

[Text] Brig. Gen. Bienvenido L. Felix, chief of the Constabulary anti-narcotics unit (CANU), pinpointed Manila yesterday as the illegal drug connection between Bangkok and Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, United States, and between Malaysia and Canada.

Felix said that the Philippines, next to Thailand, is Japan's biggest marijuana supplier.

Felix made the revelations in a paper on the drugs problem in the Philippines which he read before the first meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian National Police (Aseanapol) at Camp Crame.

The conference was attended by the national police chiefs and deputies of the five Asean countries--Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Felix reported that more than 30 foreigners have been arrested in Manila since 1972 in possession of heroin, hashish, and marijuana.

He said national law enforcement agencies have succeeded in minimizing to the lowest level heroin addiction among Filipinos.

He said the Philippine drug traffic extends from street pushing to activities of foreign-based organized crime groups and involves pharmaceutical drugs as well.

According to the CANU chief, with Metro Manila as its center, the Philippine drug trade has three principal elements--as a source, as an importation and transshipment area, and as a major distribution center.

Marijuana, Felix told the conference, remains as the favorite drug of Philippine drug users.

He said the situation is compounded by easily obtainable cough preparations, tranquilizers which are not included in the list of dangerous drugs, and certain volatile solvents which are inhaled by users.

Illicit cultivation of marijuana has remained geographically widespread but is prevalent in the mountainous areas of Luzon, he said.

The incidence of cultivation, Felix said, rose from 177 marijuana plantations in 1979 to 292 in 1980. Forty-one out of 77 Philippine provinces reportedly have plantations.

CSO: 5300/4909

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

GUN, DRUG SMUGGLER ARRESTED--An attempt to smuggle guns and drugs into the country has been foiled. General Rabian Ver, armed forces chief of staff, announced yesterday the arrest of a suspected courier of a Filipino U.S.-based terrorist group carrying 5 firearms, 3,000 rounds of ammunition and assorted drugs, including heroin. The suspect was identified as (Arturo Espiritu Farvis), a Filipino-born American from Ilocos Sur, who was arrested Friday morning after he arrived at the Manila international airport on PAL Flight 107 from San Francisco, California. Presidential security command agents, aviation security command and the Bureau of Customs found 4 handguns, 1 shotgun, 3,000 bullets, 200 capsules of heroin, one-eighth of a kilo of powdered heroin and one half pound of marijuana hidden inside a Campbell soup box filled with chocolate and candies. [Text] [HK080246 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2330 GMT 7 Nov 81]

CSO: 5300/4555

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS LABORATORY DISCOVERED--A clandestine laboratory for production of narcotics was discovered in the apartment of 26-year-old Marie P. in Prague-Vinohrady. Her 30-year old unemployed companion Jan M. was also arrested. [Prague ZEMEDELSE NOVINY in Czech 9 Nov 81 p 2]

CSO: 5300/3002

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

DRUG CONSUMERS ARRESTED--During an anti-drug operation carried out by the Drug Department of the Buenos Aires Police Force the following persons were arrested: Juan Jose Castillo, Victor Daniel Albornoz, Rafael Carlos Benitez and Carlos Alberto Delfino who were caught with 5 gms of cocaine hydrochloride, 40 gms of marihuana and 22 pills of manurax. [PY041333 Buenos Aires CRONICA in Spanish 2 Nov 81 p 8]

CSO: 5400/2061

BOLIVIA

PAPER ON ANTIDRUG EFFORTS

PY052156 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Oct 81 p 5

[Excerpts] Officials of the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Department have reported that it would be inadvisable to release the list of persons arrested for drug trafficking over the past few weeks. This would hamper investigations since the peddlers do not operate alone but together with other persons (pushers, accomplices and accessories).

The sources also confirmed that approximately 20 kg of cocaine have been seized in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba as a result of various operations. This drug is currently under guard at the headquarters of the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Department.

The cocaine seized in these two departments was confiscated from persons engaged in petty drug trafficking because, thanks to the actions undertaken by the armed forces and the Dangerous Drugs Department, large-scale trafficking has disappeared.

The Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Department, whose actions have been coordinated with those of the National Antidrug Council ever since the armed forces undertook the commitment to struggle against this crime, has handled approximately 600 cases.

The persons charged with drug trafficking are subjected to severe questioning designed to precisely establish their degree of guilt. The report added that as a result of these investigations several persons have been arraigned before the courts, others are still being held but most have been released since their guilt could not be proven.

CSO: 5400/2061

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

MINISTER HEADS ANTIDRUG COUNCIL--The interior minister has temporarily been put in charge of the presidency of the National Council for Struggle Against Drug Trafficking. President Torrelío Villa has delegated this post to the minister because of the president's heavy load of administrative work. Minister Romulo Mercado Garnica gave this explanation yesterday afternoon shortly after a meeting with President Torrelío. The measure was decided on during the last cabinet meeting which was held on Tuesday. Minister Mercado Garnica referred to the decision and said: [Begin recording] I would only like to tell you that the decision has been given the wrong interpretation. You know very well that the Council for Struggle Against Drug Trafficking was created through a government decree. It now happens that the president, who is also the president of the council, is overloaded with work and has delegated to the interior minister the task of president of the Council for Struggle Against Drug Trafficking because of that heavy workload. [End recording] Colonel Mercado Garnica also reported the approval of a measure through which the National Investigation Agency [Direccion de Investigacion Nacional--DIN] will be directly responsible to the Interior Ministry. [Excerpts] [PY051513 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Nov 81]

COCAINE BURNED--Interior Ministry officials and officials from the Dangerous Drug Department supervised the burning of 58 kg of cocaine and 300 marijuana plants. The officials said that the cocaine, which was confiscated in several operations, was worth \$29 million. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Oct 81]

CSO: 5400/2061

CHILE

COCAINE TRAFFICKING SINCE 1970 VIEWED

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 14 Oct 81 pp 12-13

[Article by Ivan Fredes and Andrea Orzegow: "Passenger in Transit"]

[Text] An elegant, imposing yacht with a California registration came to rest on the peaceful, warm waters of Arica on 24 July. The occupants of the "Erin": American James Edward Cernack, 30, and Dane Kim Jeff Jensen, 26, soon established friendly contact with the authorities and inhabitants of the northern city.

During their two-month stay at the port, awaiting -- so they claimed -- the start of the windsurfing championship that was to be held and in which they were going to compete, they became such good friends with the people of Arica that even the officials of the Yacht Club had lunch with them. However, the romanticism soon gave way to suspicion.

Strange excursions on the high seas in the early hours of the morning caused police to keep the yacht under close surveillance. With confidential investigative information, maritime authorities issued a search warrant for the vessel when it was ready to set sail for Tahiti. The truth came to light. Discovered under the deck of the "Erin" on 28 September were 22 kilograms of cocaine, 98-percent pure, worth \$1 million in the United States, three firearms and over 500 bullets and different calibre shells. It was the biggest amount of the white powder found in Chile in the last 10 years.

Was Interpol (international police) correct in once again placing our country at the head of that illegal trade, as it did in 1970?

There was a time when it was easier (around 1973) because there were fewer persons to fight the trafficking and they were not specialists, but what is happening now is not a "boom." The traffickers always maintained a certain level of activity but there was less investigation. Finding a little more or a little less cocaine does not mean any increase or decrease in the illegal activity, one investigative source told ERCILLA, but his first words strike a chord.

Naturally, when one reviews history, the statistics clearly show that the "old days were better" for the traffickers who went through our national territory. In 1970, Chile led in the number of arrests, with 33.3 percent, followed by the United States with 32.5 percent. With regard to seizures, the United States had the largest total: 46.1 percent of the figure. While our country was close behind

with 32.6 percent, it registered the largest seizures with respect to the quality of the drug. The figure was high, compared with the present, when one considers that up to 1979, the State Defense Council -- which since 1973 has taken part, as stipulated by law, in all infractions involving alcohol and all trials concerning the processing or trafficking of narcotics -- had sustained penal action in no less than 300 cases, while to date, it has no more than 65 before it.

Furthermore, while investigations show that the amount of kilograms of cocaine -- combining cocaine sulfate and cocaine hydrochloride (different stages of processing) -- has gradually increased in the last 3 years (nearly 14.5 kilograms in 1979; 22.6 in 1980; and nearly 28 kilograms so far this year), it would be false to claim, as was done at the beginning of the past decade, that over half of the illegal production of cocaine passes through Chile.

Only a Corridor

There are a few constants. Since the 1940's, when the country entered the cocaine trafficking network, it was not more than an unwitting victim of the nations that produced and consumed the highly-sought "white goddess." There are few cocaine addicts in Chile, according to Mauricio Flisfisch, president of the State Defense Council. That is not true in the United States, which has the largest number of consumers in the world. This explains why the national territory is involved in the hidden cocaine web.

Peru and Bolivia are the only ones possessing the plant and Chile shares borders with both. What better "wild card" could there be for smuggling the drug to the United States and, on a smaller scale, to Europe and a number of Asian regions. From the standpoint of distances, it is perhaps not very logical, but it throws people off the track and provides ports which, in the case of Bolivia, do not exist. That is why the northern Arica -- the area and port closest to the coca plantations -- wins the prize for the largest number of Chilean criminals tempted by the lucrative "exportation" of the product.

They get so rich that they cannot even say how large their fortune is. And no wonder: If processing a kilogram of cocaine hydrochloride costs about \$100, due to the great demand, it sells for nearly \$100,000. Whence the once prolific appearance of laboratories in different areas of the country, which now continue to be raided, but which year after year decrease in number because of the more organized police work.

Logically enough, such "purchasing power" does not exist in Chile, meaning that its role is reduced to that of a corridor for the dazzling "snow" (so named because of the cold effect it produces in the nasal passages when inhaled). The words of the investigative official consulted are pertinent:

"This is a crime that does not affect the Chilean citizenry -- there are very few consumers -- but rather, the Americans. The police could lose prestige if they do not manage to arrest the traffickers and they are caught in another country. Now then, if the conditions for the trafficking exist, the risk for the persons involved would be much smaller because the price of cocaine would also go down, which might in turn induce Chileans to become consumers. In that sense, such trafficking could mean a problem for the country."

Flisfisch makes these statements, but practically guarantees that there will be no such danger. However, he points out others already undermining Chilean young people.

"Since the passage of Law 17,934 up to the present time, it can be maintained that illegal cocaine hydrochloride trafficking in the direction of other countries has for the most part been contained. With respect to the processing here, it has nearly been eradicated through the raiding of laboratories and the arrest of those involved, most of whom are in prison. This success is confirmed by the number of trials pending and guaranteed by the creation of specialized police services and the concern of the judicial branch."

"Latent Evil"

However, there are still drawbacks. On the one hand, he observes that what is on the increase is the trafficking and consumption of marihuana and LSD among Chilean young people. (In the course "The Adolescent and Drug Dependency" being given in the country until 23 October, it was revealed that 23 percent of all young people admitted to the University Psychiatric Clinic are there for drug addiction.) With respect to cocaine, Flisfisch says the same thing as other investigative sources:

"If you are not careful, trafficking may increase and it is a latent evil because we are right alongside the great producer: Bolivia."

Nor must one lose sight of what the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, Lester Wolff, said at the World Conference on Drugs held in Chile in August 1977:

Two Constants

"Traffickers operate with sophisticated methods, backed by huge amounts of money. They have become their own supergovernment."

Without a doubt, these organizations do not act haphazardly. They trick whomever they want however they want. The very investigative source consulted by ERCILLA admits that there are many problems in investigations because they "are people of intelligence with heavy economic resources and very well-organized rings." One example is that as their routes are discovered, they change them.

The official reveals that in the beginning, the route was Chile-United States; then Chile-Rio de Janeiro-Madrid-United States; then Chile-Buenos Aires-Milan-United States; and now, because of the seizure of the "Erin," the current alternative would appear to be Chile-Tahiti-Australia-United States.

Two constant Chile and the United States, for an elusive, latent evil that has little possibility of flourishing here, for the time being at least.

11,464
CSO: 5300/2041

COSTA RICA

BRIEF

PLANE, TRAFFICKERS IN CUSTODY--No narcotics were found aboard the U.S. plane that was detained in Tortuguero and the two foreigners traveling in the aircraft were turned over to immigration officials. (Bobby Carlton Bryant) and (Robert Mitchell Fullerton) were admitted narcotics traffickers and had replaced the plane's U.S. registration numbers with a Colombian registration number. Mechanics of the air section found remnants of cocaine and a few marijuana seeds and leaves in the cabin. Both (Bryant) and (Fullerton) rented the plane from a company that renders services to narcotics traffickers. (Bobby Carlton Bryant) and (Robert Mitchell Fullerton) were arrested in Tortuguero when their plane had mechanical troubles and had to make an emergency landing. (Bryant) and (Fullerton) were traveling in a light plane with Colombian registration HK741P, which, it was proved, was false and had been pasted on top of the legitimate registration. Both stated they were on their way from Colombia to Houston, Texas, but when they noticed one engine was not working properly, they had to land in Tortuguero. The plane is really registered in the United States under the number N783A and belongs to the (Sulakes) aviation company, a well-known company which rents planes to narcotics traffickers. (Bobby Carlton Bryant) and (Robert Mitchell Fullerton) were turned over to the immigration authorities. [Text] [PA072127 San Jose Radio RELOJ in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Nov 81]

CSO: 5300/2063

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--Two Ecuadoreans arrested with 20,000 grams of cocaine. Members of the National Police of Loja arrested the following citizens: 26-year old Simon Rengel Jimenez, and 28-year old Alberto Rojas Chamba when they were caught at illicit trafficking of drugs. Twenty-seven packets of cocaine paste, weighing approximately 20,000 grams, were confiscated from them. They were transporting the drug in a light truck, a Nissan Junior, 2,000, with license plates P-72314, the property of Rengel Jimenez. From the confession of one of those arrested, it was ascertained that Rodrigo Delgado, a Colombian, proposed to Simon Rengel Jimenez that they transport a shipment of cocaine paste from Sozoranga, in the province of Loja, to Tulcan for a big sum of money. After completing the negotiation, Rengel Jimenez contacted Rodrigo Delgado on Monday, 12 October, from whom he received 27 packets of cocaine paste, which were hidden in secret compartments of the light truck. They agreed to deliver the drug the following day in Tulcan, where Delgado would be waiting. In his confession Rengel Jimenez indicated that Alberto Rojas Chamba and Flaberto Torres Cueva had nothing to do with this smuggling, inasmuch as they were only travelling in the truck as passengers. It was explained that Torres Cueva escaped when they were intercepted by the police; the Interpol police are therefore continuing their search. As for the arrested persons: Rengel and Rojas Chamba were placed at the disposition of the district attorney of the Court of Loja for judgment and sanction for the trafficking of drugs. The 20,000 grams of cocaine are in the police station storeroom, awaiting suitable means of destruction. The Nissan Junior truck was confiscated. [Text] [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Oct 81 p B 10] 8255

CSO: 5300/2055

HONDURAS

TONS OF MARIHUANA SEIZED NEAR SWAN ISLAND

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Sep 81 pp 4-5

[Article by Nelson Fernandez]

[Text] The biggest seizure of marihuana yet made by the authorities in territorial waters of the central american countries was made last Wednesday when a patrol boat from the Honduran naval base seized a fishing boat with United States flag and crew, carrying nine tones of the drug valued at 10,800,000 lempiras.

The marihuana, grown in Colombia, was being transported from this South American country towards a place in the state of Florida, but apparently the captain went off course, entered Honduran waters and was seized 11 miles south of the Cisne Islands, in the Atlantic Ocean.

The crew was composed of Jesus Eugenio Salgado, 19 years old, coming from the residing Cayo Bueso (the only one who speaks Spanish with a Cuban accent); James Mike Owens, 28, born in New Jersey, and Ray Weatherinton, 54 native of Miami and captain of the boat.

The name of the boat is "Captain K.C." with registry number 59611 and belonging to St. Augustine Trawlers of St. Augustine, in the state of Florida.

After the capture, the boat was towed to the dock of the Puerto Cartel naval base, where the 480 bales containing the drug were moved to two of the base warehouses.

Yesterday, in the presence of the inspector general of narcotics, authorities of the naval base, the justice of the peace for criminal activity, Miguel Angel Landaverde Cerna inspected the drug to assess the fine and initiate the legal proceedings which in general terms will close with the burning of the marihuana and the sentencing by the court of those implicated.

One of the defendants, young Jesus Eugenio Salgado, stated that he resides in Cayo Bueso, Florida, where his wife, Teresa Salgado and his son, hardly four months old, are staying.

Questioned on the matter, he said that it is the first time that he and his friends are involved in marihuana smuggling, adding that he knows absolutely nothing about the owners of the drug, nor who put it in the boat, nor the people who were going to receive it.

He said "We made contact by telephone and loaded the marihuana on the high seas; from thereon I don't remember anything. We are dying of hunger and they grabbed us to do this and just look at us now..."

Asked where the marihuana came from, he replied that they got it on the high seas, 150 miles south of the coast of Aruba, where armed men intercepted them in three vessels and loaded the drug aboard, ordering them to bring it "to a point in the Gulf of Mexico, although we do not know who was going to pick it up nor anything about it..."

When questioned about how they penetrated Honduran territorial waters, he explained that "we thought that we were in international waters; the captain said so and did not explain how it was that we were not...." Salgado related that they were seated in the vessel when they heard the siren of the Honduran coast guard. Then they stopped.

Although the man being questioned said he knew nothing of this, authorities of the naval base maintained that the crew members of the fishing vessel had received an offer of payment for the transport of the drug the sum of 50,000 lempiras annually.

9678
CSO: 5300/2009

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA PLANTATION DISCOVERED--A marihuana plantation was discovered and confiscated by agents of the Treasury and of FUSEP in the town of Sacaguato, jurisdiction of Sabanagrande in this department. When the plantation of grass was discovered, 791 plants were confiscated located on land owned by one of the men implicated and situated on the outskirts of the town. This did not originally arouse suspicion. Santos Macario Ramis Barahona and Santos Antonio Avila Avila, originally from that community were accused of the crime and in accordance with the police report are engaged in agriculture. [Excerpt] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Sep 81 p 2] 9678

CSO: 5300/2009

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STATINTEL



APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2007/02/09: CIA-RDP82-00850R000400070055-0
STATINTEL

PANAMA

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKER'S ARREST--Cicoletta Semeria Sorencia, who was caught with 12 packages of cocaine at the Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera international airport at noon on Saturday, was placed at the disposition of Isaac Chang Vega, assistant prosecutor. [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Oct 81 p 10 PA]

CSO: 5300/2063

PARAGUAY

BRIEFS

MORPHINE PEDDLERS ARRESTED--Through thorough investigations members of the Interior Ministry's Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Department were able to arrest 40-year-old Paraguayan Raul Alejandro Suarez who was found with 2 grams of morphine. Through Suarez' statements the department was able to arrest Argentine citizens Carlos Omar Ferreira Moleda, 20 years old, and Enrique Emilio Salgado, 23 years old, who are also charged with morphine trafficking. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Oct 81 p 25]

CSO: 5400/2061

PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG RING BROKEN--Cajamarca--Members of the first rural detachment of the 6th Cajamarca Precinct of the Civil Guards have inflicted a severe blow to drug trafficking by seizing 5 kg of cocaine base and 10 million soles in cash. The sinister drug ring operated from a place called El Escalon in the village of Huatanal, Cospan District (Cajamarca). The police raid, carried out after preliminary investigation had been conducted by the Civil Guards, resulted in the arrest of five persons who were caught red-handed. The arrested peddlers, who are currently being held at the Cajamarca police station, are: Juan Francisco Rodriguez Aguirre, 47, and his children Luz Irene Rodriguez Sanchez, 23, and Santos Cesar Rodriguez Sanchez, 21; and also Cesar Augusto Arangoitia Mendieta, 27, from Lima; and Humberto Alcantara Ramirez, 26, from Laredo Trujillo. Chemists Santos Pita Huaman and Juan Alva Alfaro are still at large and being sought by the police. [Excerpt] [PY102059 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 29 Oct 81 p 17]

CSO: 5300/2060

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

DRUG ARREST--Police last night captured (Giovanni Rodriguez Milano), a drug trafficker who has been active in Vargas. The authorities confiscated a package of drugs containing 11 measures [codos] of cocaine and 30 marijuana joints. The drug trafficker will be turned over to the Interpol section of the judicial police. The drug trafficker, who resides in Maracaibo, reportedly makes frequent trips to Caracas to sell the drugs, which he brings from Colombia. [PA121723 Caracas Radio Continente in Spanish 2100 GMT 11 Nov 81]

CSO: 5300/2060

AFGHANISTAN

FINNISH EXPERT APPOINTED TO UN DRUG EFFORT IN COUNTRY

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 24 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] Professional interest as well as a love of adventure and challenge have led the Central Criminal Police criminal investigator Risto Veijalainen to a unique position on the battle-ridden Afghanistan.

Veijalainen is the first Finn ever to have been chosen to serve as a specialist for the UN narcotics department, UNODC.

One of the reasons why a Finn has been chosen to this extraordinary position is Finland's non-political reputation. UN cooperative development agencies regard Finland as one of the most favored sources of recruits.

Risto Veijalainen, 43, is the reason why the Finn chosen for this post was Veijalainen. He is generally considered to be Finland's leading expert on international narcotics questions.

Veijalainen's background includes a long career with the police, Candidate of Jurisprudence degree, foreign language skills, familiarity with the workings of Interpol, a long career as the chief of the Central Criminal Police narcotics division, the uneasy post of the chief investigator in the Salora case, and a character that does not give in easily in criminal investigations.

Faking concern, Veijalainen's co-workers at the Central Criminal Police are now collecting a "memorial fund for colleague Veijalainen, for nobody can possibly stay alive chasing drug criminals, and, to top it all, in a crises-beriddled country."

Veijalainen's official title in Afghanistan is "criminal investigation advisor" in the narcotics division of the interior ministry in the country's capital Kabul.

Afghanistan Top Producer of Opium

Veijalainen's job description includes supervision of the police drug investigation and the UN project's million mark budget, coordination of the cooperation between the Customs and the Narcotics Police and organizing of the training of the narcotics police. The actual chasing of the drug criminals in the Afghanistan mountains is not part of Veijalainen's job as the UN advisor.

Risto Veijalainen made already last May a preliminary visit to Afghanistan on a two-week jaunt as a UN consultant.

"Afghanistan has traditionally been among the biggest producers of opium. In 1979, the officially confirmed amount of confiscated raw opium was 30 tons. The actual amount going to the European markets in the peak years has been estimated to have been as high as over 500 tons," Veijalainen said.

According to Veijalainen, Afghanistan's domestic drug problems are minor despite the tons of opium produced. The local farmers look on poppy growing roughly the same as the Finnish taxpayers look on cheating on taxes.

Together with Pakistan and Iran, Afghanistan is now on the top of the list of most important producers of opium for the West European drug markets. According to Veijalainen, the heroin and opium traffic is now crossing over from the Golden Triangle of Asia--Thailand, Laos and Burma--to the near East.

The Afghan police claim that the drugs move from Pakistan through Afghanistan into Europe. With its freely available hashish, the capital, Kabul, was in the early 1970's the Mecca of the hippie movement.

World Narcotics Situation Getting Worse

The UN yearly report describes the world's overall narcotics situation as worse than ever before.

"The drugs cause most damage in the Western countries. That is why the UN has started its narcotics control project which will provide the farmers with farming alternatives. So far, the UN narcotics project has provided for the building of modern quarters for narcotics investigation in 10 Afghanistan towns."

"Although only a minor number of drug offenses are discovered by the police, it is, however, certain that international drug trafficking is directed by certain criminal organizations with their organized leagues. Although we don't have in Finland a drug problem of international magnitude, our narcotics investigation is high-class."

"It is quite different to be a narcotics investigator in a producing country than in a country where drugs are not grown," Veijalainen pointed out.

According to the Foreign Ministry, there are no Finns in Afghanistan at present. Western journalists have long been denied visas to Afghanistan, where even now battles continue between the government and guerillas.

However, the turbulence of the Afghanistan situation does not scare Veijalainen, who will spend the first week of November in Vienna at the UN before continuing to his final destination.

Officially, Veijalainen's post in Afghanistan has been budgeted only until the end of the year, but in the event that additional time can be arranged, Risto Veijalainen wants to consider returning to the country.

Veijalainen has known to expect the UN position for about a year, but the Afghanistan government and the UN have only now been able to arrange the final papers necessary for travel.

EGYPT

OPIUM SMUGGLING ATTEMPT FOILED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Oct 81 p 19

[Text] Security forces in the Ministry of Interior foiled a new attempt to smuggle a large shipment of raw opium valued at half a million pounds. The smugglers had hidden the opium inside secret hollow spaces within some woodwork arriving in packages aboard a plane arriving from Karachi, Pakistan.

Information and investigations had determined the return of certain drug smugglers and their aides to their activities, and that they had agreed on a new plan to bring large drug shipments from abroad, after several other operations failed, the last one being the arrest of a foreign diplomat and an Egyptian smuggler at Cairo airport.

In implementing the research plan supervised by Maj Gen Sami As'ad, the director of drug administration, to observe the smugglers' moves, it was noticed that a group of smugglers and their aides had traveled abroad to bring in large shipments of drugs. In order to further distort the facts, the smugglers moved among several countries, finally landing in Karachi, where they had sent several packages containing woodwork.

Through the investigations received by Maj Gen Mamduh Salim Zaki, narcotics agent, Colonel Muhammad 'Abbas Mansur, operations manager, and Colonel Sayyid Ghayth, an agreement was reached with the Port Security and Customs Authorities to foil that operation and uncover the plan, as it was learned that the smugglers had resorted to a new, original method of hiding the drugs in secret hollow spaces inside the woodwork and had sent it by installments, some of which arrived addressed to fictitious persons. The smugglers made sure that all these packages would be transitted from Cairo to Nairobi to ensure that they were not opened and that they were stored at the airport until one of the smugglers could claim them without being discovered.

Col Ahmad Nadda, chief of the narcotics section at the airport, was disguised as one of the freight workers in order to observe the planes arriving from Karachi and the passengers' lounge for the probability of having someone claim these packages. A group of security officers, headed by Majors 'Imad Rashid, Shafiq al-'Ushri, and Tariq Abu Zayd, opened all the packages containing woodwork, where they found shipments of raw opium valued at half a million pounds.

9455
CSO: 5300/5002

IRAN

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKERS EXECUTED--Tehran, 2 Nov (AFP)--Three people accused of drug trafficking and of being "corrupted on earth" were executed today in the northeastern city of Ardabil, the ETTELA'AT newspaper said today. The Ardabil Revolutionary Court also handed 14 people charged with drug trafficking and consumption and opening gambling dens sentences of one to 10 years in prison and 70 lashes of the whip. In the southern city of Kazerun, a man accused of adultery was executed. Three other men were sentenced to 40, 50 and 60 lashes for having "led astray" young girls, the newspaper said. The KEYHAN newspaper, meanwhile, announced the arrest in Tehran of a former member of the shah's secret police, Savak. The report said Nur Mohammad Farzin had served in Savak for 17 years and was a member of the Bahai religious sect. Several documents seized in his home pointed to the sect's collaboration with the former regime, the newspaper said. Mr Farzin, who admitted being a Bahai, was jailed in Evin prison, it said. Elsewhere, 10 "active elements" had sympathizers of the outlawed people's Mojahedin group were executed in the eastern city of Mashhad, Iranian television reported today. The left-wing dissidents were convicted by revolutionary guards of "armed uprising against the Islamic revolution," the report said. No date was given for their executions. [Text] [NC021807 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 2 Nov 81]

DRUG CASE STATISTICS--Tehran, 3 Nov (AFP)--A total of 459 drug dealers were executed in Iran between the appointment of Sadeq Khalkhali as head of the Revolutionary Narcotics Court on June 10, 1980, and the present day, the revolutionary court announced today. Quoted by the ETTELA'AT newspaper, the court said also that during this time 45 traffickers were sentenced to life in prison, 6,700 to jail terms of three months to 10 years, 21 had their possessions confiscated, 21 were fined and 5,489 were released on bail. Ayatollah Khalkhali resigned as narcotics president on December 7 last year. [Text] [NC031722 Paris AFP in English 1705 GMT 3 Nov 81]

CSO: 5300/5320

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HASHISH FOUND--Some 50 tires and four sacks containing 2.7 tons of hashish were cast on the Dor coast near Haifa in the last 24 hours. This is reported by the ITIM correspondent in Haifa. A coast guard helicopter and boat on 1 November attempted to find more of the drug. The containers held 9,460 sole-shaped packages of hashish weighing 250 grams each. The police investigators believe that the drugs were drawn to the coast from the smuggling route running between Turkey and Lebanon, en route to Egypt. [TA010608 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Nov 81 TA]

CSO: 5300/4703

NIGER

DRUG ABUSE STATISTICS, PREVENTION MEASURES NOTED

Niamey SAHEL HEBDO in French No 280, 19 Oct 81 p 14

[Article by Binta Mahamane: "Stop the Scourge"]

[Text] Drug use is now a universal phenomenon despite the police force's many traps for smugglers, clients and other users. Here in Niger, the ever-vigilant police force supplies untiring efforts to prevent drugs from being brought in.

Mr Allagouma Adamou, the police commisssioner, explains to us what the police do to prevent drugs from entering Niger. "The police and customs work together at border stations. When customs seizes a quantity of drugs, they inevitably turn it over to the police, who handle the matter on a penal leve."

To prevent the sale and use of drugs, the force conducts "police actions" in two ways. First, during police operations, they may "stumble" upon someone who has some tablets on him and is therefore a user. The police ask him for his supplier's whereabouts so that they can trace the network; or, then, based on information from other people, Samaritans, for example, the police are "given tips." If the police are sufficiently well informed, they lay hands on the person who is using or selling. But how are drugs reaching Niger? The policy commissioner explains: "Several methods are used to bring drugs into Niger; they are transported by auto, on donkey or camel backs, in canoes, on foot...but less and less often by automobile, due to very stringent controls on vehicles."

Amphetamine tablets, red capsules (called "Roka's" by users), hashish, and certain pharmaceutical preparations are the drugs which exist in Niger.

At police headquarters, in 1981, 22 persons were implicated in drug matters. Their ages ranged from 15 to 40 years. "In a single case," states teh commissioner, you sometimes find several categories of drugs. But very often, people are more or less specialized. Some take only hashish, others emphetamine sulfate tablets, or "Roka's." According to police headquarters statistics, about 1,250 amphetamine tablets, 630 red capsules, 13 packages of hashish, and miscellaneous pharmaceutical tablets have been seized.

The Police Conduct Their Inquiry and Send It on to the Courts Who Impose The Penalty

About 10 years ago, drugs and narcotics in general worried the country. The peasant wants to work, and due to exhausted soils and to aridity, and even to the structures

for marketing and establishing food crops, he has to work very hard to produce. For this reason, the peasant uses "hana-kwana" which is a drug, a narcotic. This was practically a crisis in the country at the time. Everyone remembers that "hana-kwana" was the most widespread narcotic and when evening came, was sold with great fanfare in the village square "in sight of and with the knowledge of" the customs authorities. At that time people did not perceive the danger of narcotics. Today drug use has taken hold in the cities, due to the rural exodus and the problems posed by large cities. At the same time, the narcotics used are diversified. We asked Chief Justice Moussa Yacouba to tell us how many drug cases they had to judge during the past 2 years.

"In 1980," he stated, "there were 59 narcotic cases with an average of 5 persons involved per case, both users and sellers. From January to October 1981, 71 cases were handled. The classes involved are basically part of the rural exodus; second, you also find students, particularly during exams at the end of the trimester or semester, depending on the grade the student is in, and also at the end of the year."

But there are also minors involved. But they use harmful substances instead, such as "parfum," a wild plant which is called "touri foubou" in Zarma, which, when used in a certain manner, produces the same effects as drugs. There are also solutions used to seal inner tubes; the solutions are used by minors. In fact, it is because they are not financially capable of purchasing narcotics and do not know the channels through which they can obtain them that these young people use harmful substances.

According to the chief justice, there are also adults who, when they are desperate for sulfates or hashish, use "parfum," for example. However, Mr Moussa Yacouba does not think that the narcotics problem is the only one affecting minors in particular. There is, he added, juvenile delinquency which we should worry about, but with regard to certain offenses such as aggravated theft, vagrancy, etc.

Ordinance Number 74-30 of 8 November 1974 and its enactment Number 77-108 of 8 December 1977 provide for penalties for this offense.

Previously, it was the very old 1926 French code which was applied in Niger. But it was the enactment of 26 January 1926 on the legal practice of pharmacology that was applied. Faced with the urgency of the problem, administrative and legislative authorities felt it necessary to update the old code. In other words, at present the legislation regarding the struggle against drug abuse is very recent.

In the case of a repeat offense, narcotics and poisonous substance offenses do not differ at all from repeat offenses for any other infractions. In clear terms, a repeat offender cannot be sentenced to a term less than twice as long as the first term he has incurred. Example: If a delinquent has been sentenced to 3 or 4 years in prison, 3 or 4 years ago, and he appears in court, he cannot be sentenced to less than 6 or 8 years.

Finally, it is to be noted that the court must order the confiscation of the product seized for delivery to the ONPPC [National Office of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Products] which will be able to use it.

9693
CSO: 5300/5603

SOUTH AFRICA

MANDRAX DEALERS USE NEW ROUTE INTO COUNTRY

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 29 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by Emielia Jaroschek]

[Text]

SOUTH AFRICA's mandrax smugglers are operating on a new front — they are now running their contraband into the country through Mozambique.

Cases containing thousands of tablets are being successfully smuggled into South Africa along the new route, according to reports.

They are then transferred to Swaziland and Lesotho before being moved to feed the lucrative South African market.

And a new market for the drug has opened in South Africa — among the drifting population living and working on construction sites for Sasol II and III at Secunda in the Eastern Transvaal.

Air flights

Both South African and Swaziland police confirmed they knew of the new route but they would not elaborate on their investigations.

Police in Swaziland said they believed the smugglers run the drug on scheduled air flights.

The Rand Daily Mail has been told that smugglers are also moving the drug into Swaziland along the much-used roads from Mozambique.

But police in Swaziland said they had not come across incidents to verify this. "There is an extremely strict check kept at these border posts," a top police

spokesman in Swaziland said.

In Pretoria this week, Colonel Basie Smit, head of the South African Narcotics Bureau, said mandrax remained South Africa's second largest drug problem — beaten only by dagga.

Dealers — often businessmen — with hundreds of thousands of rands at their disposal are still operating in all major cities of South Africa despite major police crackdowns in which large consignments of tablets have been seized and runners arrested.

Coups

Coups this year by police this year include seizures such as: 300 000 tablets worth R3-million, 50 000 tablets, 46 000 tablets, and 3 700 tablets.

Col Smit said although the tightening of checks at airports and border posts was a severe blow to dealers, help from the public remained essential in fighting mandrax abuse.

The last major consignment was seized by detectives in Cape Town last weekend when two men and a woman were arrested at a house in Woodstock for allegedly dealing in 4 300 tablets worth about R43 000.

Another major consignment of 72 000 tablets worth about R720 000 was seized by Swaziland police in September at Matsapa Airport when a man allegedly tried to bribe a customs official.

CSO: 5300/5607

SOUTH AFRICA

MANDRAX COURIER METHODS, TECHNIQUES ARE DESCRIBED

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 29 Oct 81 p 8

[Article by Emielia Jaroschek: "The Secret Ways of the Mandrax Men"]

[Text]

FURTIVELY, a courier places a carefully wrapped parcel under a back alley dustbin in Johannesburg.

Using green spray paint, he makes a crude mark on a nearby wall. The signal is given. The drop has been made.

Later another furtive figure collects the parcel.

His mark is made in black spray paint over the original. Again it is a signal. The drop has been collected.

The same method is used at a different place to pay for the consignment. The transaction is completed without any personal contact.

It is the dead letterbox system — normally used by insurgents smuggling arms and spies selling secrets.

But this is no "drop" zone for insurgents or "spooks".

It is the method now favoured by the Mandrax mandarins and the parcels contain thousands of tiny white pills worth hundreds of thousands of Rands.

Last month the Rand Daily Mail traced mandrax to its source in Bombay.

Lethal

It has now uncovered some of the secret distribution methods used by the Mandrax mandarins to get their lethal ware to users on the streets of South Africa's major cities.

Behind the major smuggling route from Bombay via the African states to South Africa are the big dealers — men and women operating from South Africa's

major cities — buying massive consignments while they keep their own hands "clean" of the drug.

The multi-million rand racket has doubled its activities over the past year as the big dealers make regular clandestine flights to neighbouring countries or even Bombay itself to negotiate new deals.

The original deals are "fixed" without any money or tablets passing hands.

From the time the dealer buys the tablets — for between 20c and 50c each — to the time it reaches the user in the street, the price has rocketed to between R7 and R15.

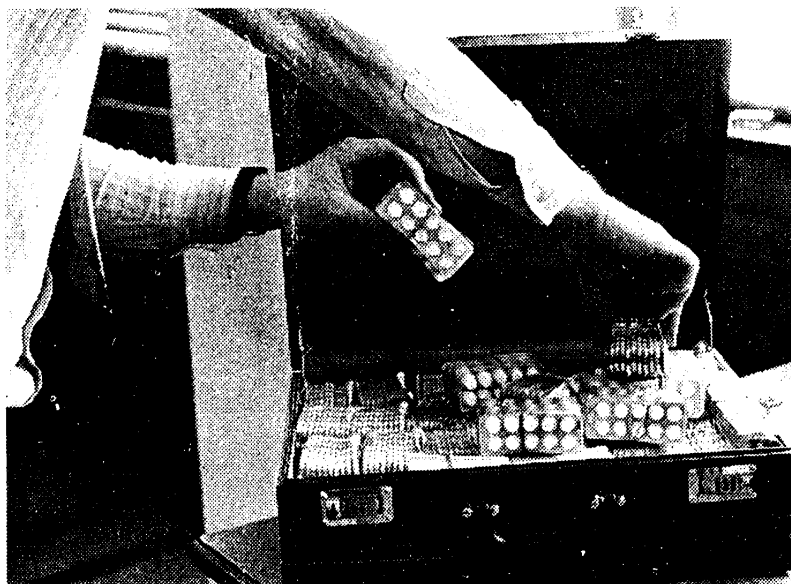
The original negotiations are usually made by the dealers, sometimes wealthy South Africans.

Then the dealer's courier steps in. He is used as a stooge to accompany the baggage with its precious consignment and ensure it is safely transferred from Bombay airport to an airport in neighbouring states such as Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho or Botswana — and more recently Mozambique.

Cracked

Police have successfully cracked the system at these points in which middlemen — usually locals — are paid to take temporary care of the airport consignments until they are finally handed over to other couriers for money.

At this stage two couriers are often used to collect a consignment. One man drives to the neighbouring state to fetch the



MANDRAX CASE . . . Johannesburg Drug Squad detectives recently seized these 7 350 Mandrax tablets, worth about R70 000, before they reached the buyers.

consignment, which may range from 5 000 to 300 000 tablets or more, while another takes the same route with the money.

Couriers have also been known to fly to South Africa and then return to the neighbouring states by road or air to collect the consignment.

They will sometimes bring the tablets straight to South Africa. One such consignment, consisting of 48 000 tablets worth nearly R500 000, was seized by customs officials in April this year. An Indian man and coloured woman were arrested.

Police are reluctant to reveal the hiding methods of consignments transported into South Africa, but some obvious ones have been found in spare wheels, air cleaners and false car parts.

Once in South Africa, the tab-

lets never reach the dealer himself but are immediately sold to buyers via dead letter boxes or in clandestine hotel meetings where buyers and couriers book into hotel rooms.

Sometimes a parcel is simply left for the buyer at the reception desk. Payment is later deposited in lockers — again cutting out direct contact with the buyer.

Large quantities are also often immediately distributed to regular customers.

Police investigations have shown that some consignments of tablets have even been bought "on tick" — paid for after they are on the streets.

Dealers are continuing to make massive profits despite major police successes.

Users are found everywhere: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Dur-

ban and Port Elizabeth have "good" underground markets for Mandrax.

And now even Secunda with its driftwood population working for Sasol II and III has a demand for Mandrax, according to police information.

New routes

The mandarins are always ready to supply, constantly dreaming up new routes and methods to smuggle the drug through possible gaps in the tight police net.

But police in South Africa and neighbouring states are stepping up their Mandrax vigil.

Many of the arrests are now netting money-hungry, inexperienced smugglers who are foolishly "walking in where wise smugglers fear to tread".

CSO: 5300/5607

NETHERLANDS

BRIEFS

HEROIN CONFISCATED--The Hague, 17 Nov (AFP)--Some 21 kilograms (46 pounds) of heroin, worth 21 million florins (\$5.1 million), were confiscated and 17 people arrested yesterday after police discovered 500-gram (one-pound) packets of the drug hidden in boxes of frozen shrimp, police said today. Police followed the people who picked up the shrimp, which arrived in Amsterdam Airport aboard a regularly-scheduled airline from Pakistan. The operation led them to a house in The Hague, where 12 people were arrested. The five others were detained after they were found in hotels in the Dutch capital, police said. [Text] [NC170911 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 17 Nov 81]

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NORWAY

GOVERNMENT STEPS UP DRUG ENFORCEMENT EFFORT IN NORTH SEA

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 30 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Thorleif Andreassen]

[Text] The government is going to put in effect more stringent enforcement measures to prevent the abuse of narcotics on the oil platforms in the North Sea. Carl Wendt, chief of police in Stavanger, will head up a committee which will undertake an accelerated critical review of the existing enforcement measures and practices. The committee will then make proposals for new, effective measures. The government hopes that the new measures will be ready for the coming year. Probably, some of a long list of measures which will be put into effect will include greater use of dogs, better technical equipment and more frequent spot checks by the police.

Mona Rokke, the minister of justice, points out to AFTENPOSTEN that the narcotics problem on the platforms is particularly serious because it involves not only the Stavanger area but can spread to future petroleum activity in the north if effective countermeasures are not put into effect now.

The minister of justice emphasizes the problem that many of the workers on the oil platforms are not Norwegian citizens. These people are brought directly to the platforms, for example, from England, without first going through the Norwegian security process. She is advocating, in regard to this, uniform enforcement measures for all workers on Norwegian oil platforms, irrespective of from where they come.

The Wendt committee will examine very minutely the enforcement routines before it submits its report to the ministry of justice, which will constantly be kept informed in regard to the progress of the committee's work. An important aspect is to delineate the extent of the problem of narcotics in the North Sea.

The purpose in naming the Wendt committee is, among other things, to obtain an evaluation of both the narcotics problem in the Stavanger area and the problems in connection with the oil platforms. The last question will have priority so that the necessary preliminary rules can be put into effect in a comparatively short time.

The working committee will have representatives from the employees and employers in petroleum industry. In addition, people from the social departments in Stavanger will participate.

"It is obvious that the availability of narcotics in Stavanger has increased in connection with the increased petroleum activity. Experience shows that greater

availability leads to greater use. One does not have to be full of fantasies to imagine what dangers narcotics has for safety in the North Sea," Mona Rokke emphasized.

The Phillips oil company has requested permission to require from the police testimonials in regard to the people who are sent out to the oil platforms. The ministry of justice is now evaluating that request. It is not known for the time being to what extent the ministry of justice will grant this request. "It is obvious that one has to be careful in adopting orders which may be like restrictions on the individual's right to work. On the other hand, I believe there is wide understanding for the fact that conditions in the North Sea have such a special characters and where accidents can have such catastrophic consequences, that one can anticipate agreement on special measures," Mona Rokke said.

She reminded us that both the employers and employees will be represented on the working committee which will be lead by Police Chief Wendt. "We will take a position in regard to the proposal from Phillips after we have heard from both the employers and employees in the North Sea," she said.

It was on the night of 13 October that the police moved against some 20 petroleum workers at the Ekofisk field and in the Stavanger area. The background to this extensive police action was first and foremost the safety risk which the abuse of narcotics represents. Only a moment's carelessness and inattention can lead to a catastrophe on an oil installation. Hence, there is an absolute prohibition against the use of alcohol on board. The narcotics police in Stavanger have noted that individuals in the narcotic milieu in the city easily get jobs out in the North Sea. To prevent this leading to an accident because of narcotics misuse, the ministry of justice is now giving top priority to the task of finding effective measures.

6893
CSO: 5300/2044

NORWAY

POLICE MAKE ARRESTS FOR DRUG ABUSE IN NORTH SEA OIL FIELD

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 19 Oct 81 p 2

[Text] On Saturday night the Stavanger police arrested two men at the Valhalla field in the North Sea. The narcotics campaign of the Stavanger police is thereby being extended to several oil-drilling platforms, and all together five people have been arrested.

Officer First Class A. Endresplass of the Stavanger police department has informed the Norsk Telegrambyra that the events at the Valhalla field on Saturday night confirms the suspicions which the police have had that the misuse of narcotics in the North Sea is not just confined to the Ekofisk field.

"The two men arrested at the Valhalla field were apprehended for using narcotics. One was fined and released, but the other man is still in jail," Endresplass says.

The police have previously arrested three people at the Ekofisk field. The third, a foreign citizen, was arrested Friday and taken to Stavanger on Saturday.

He is under suspicion of bringing in 56 grams of hashish. The stuff was then sold to a person at Ekofisk for 2700 kroner. The hashish was brought to Ekofisk via the helicopter base at Forus.

According to Officer Endresplass, the police will continue their anti-narcotics campaign at the oilfields in the North Sea. The stuff which has come in will now be examined more carefully, and police action will most likely be also expanded to include other platforms besides Ekofisk and Valhalla.

That which the police know the least about is, according to Endresplass, the supply route for the narcotics used in the North Sea.

"We know that the people who use the stuff take along enough for their stay at the field. We also know that the petroleum workers from the Stavanger area who use narcotics get it locally. Some of it is also brought in from abroad. In other words, there are many supply routes." Endresplass says.

He does not believe there is any direct connection between the increase in the use of narcotics in Rogaland and the expansion of petroleum activity. "My impression is that the misuse of narcotics in the North Sea and in the Stavanger area are in step with the situation elsewhere in the country."

6893
CSO: 5300/2044

41

NORWAY

BRIEFS

HUNGARIANS SMUGGLED IN HASHISH--Oslo, 19 Oct--Two Hungarian citizens living in Norway, were sentenced by the circuit court of Oslo on Friday to 5 and 1/2 years' imprisonment for smuggling in and selling 27 kilograms of hashish. The judgment was in accord with the counsel's plea for the prosecution, district attorney Lars Frnsdal. The two Hungarians denied being guilty when they made their statements at the beginning of the trial on Wednesday. The hashish was purchased from a Danish citizen in Copenhagen, and the two maintained that they had been in contact with him only in connection with the sale of a motor vehicle and the purchase of a vacation cottage. The circuit court emphasized strongly that a very large quantity of narcotics was involved which could be distributed to a large number of people and that the profit motive was a decisive factor. The hashish was smuggled into Norway on several trips up to the spring of 1980. The two paid 690,000 kroner for the stuff, according to notebooks found in the possession of the Danish supplier. The stuff has here an estimated street value of 2.7 million kroner in retail sale at 100 kroner a gram. [Text] [Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 19 Oct 81 p 2] 6983

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END